



Date: June 30, 2016

Memo To: Town of Bluffton Town Council; Don Ryan Center for Innovation Board of Directors; Marc Orlando, Town Manager

From: David Nelems, Don Ryan Center for Innovation Executive Director

RE: JUNE 2016 DON RYAN CENTER FOR INNOVATION REPORT

CENTER OPERATIONS

- Multiple calls/meetings with **Chairman Matt Green** about various **growth opportunities**.
- Monthly meeting with **Marc Orlando**.
- **2016 Golf** meetings. Starting to sign up sponsors and golfers.
- **Updated DRCI Golf website**.
- **Updated DRCI website**.
- Began work on **AT&T grant** paperwork.
- Expanding membership program benefits.

INNOVATORS

- Currently there are **5 innovators** in the Center.
- **CERAS and Taylor Offshore graduation event on June 16**.
- Met with **every innovator at least once** (some multiple times) during the month.
- Coordinating prototype development for Bluffton based **Elongator**.
- Met with **two potential mentors**.
- Met with **two potential innovators**.
- Conference call with machine shop for **Elongator**.
- All innovators are current with their monthly program fees.

OUTREACH, STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS

- Internal strategy meeting with Jay Martinez, **Waddell Director Al Stokes**, DRCI Board members Michael Mathews and Larry Hughes about possible **Mariculture - Economic Development opportunities**.
- Finished work with USCB and Celebrate Bluffton to launch the **“Celebrate Bluffton” app**. **The app will launch on schedule in July**.
- **Spoke at Beaufort Rotary event**.
- Accepted into the **“Girls Who Code”** program for a Fall 2016 program slot. Found a local volunteer to teach the sessions. 20 girls have signed up for the program.

- Meeting with Bert Boldec about DRCI **volunteer coordinator** position.
- **Exit interviews** with Taylor Offshore mentors.
- Call with **Dept. of Commerce** about upcoming grants.
- DRCI **monthly networking** event.
- Meeting with Lucy Rosen to discuss upcoming **marketing** plans.
- Attended **Beaufort RDC** meeting.
- Attended **Beaufort Digital Corridor** launch event.
- Conversations with City of Beaufort about DRCI satellite location.
- Attended Creative Coast ecosystem lunch.
- Meeting with WJCL about marketing DRCI.
- Meeting with DRCI mentor prospects (2).
- Meeting with Board member from The Creative Coast about partnership possibilities.

TOWN OF BLUFFTON OPERATIONS

- Attended **Senior Staff** meetings.
- Attended **Town Council** meeting.